

Air Force Leadership



Secretary of the Air Force

It is my great honor and distinct pleasure to lead the world's greatest air and space force. Regardless of the challenge, you have answered America's call to defend peace and freedom around the world.

Americans depend on you to protect our way of life. They are proud of your accomplishments, and you are the example of strength and courage of our great nation.

Today, our Total Force is engaged around the world, protecting our liberty and giving those who have dreamed of a better life the opportunity to enjoy freedom and democracy.

Your honorable and selfless service has earned the respect of our great country. I salute you and your families as we continue to fight for the greatest cause — the defense of freedom.

— **Hon. James G. Roche**

(Editor's note: Secretary Roche has submitted his resignation, with plans to leave his position by Jan. 20, 2005.)



Air Force Chief of Staff

"In Defense of Freedom" is a very appropriate theme for the 2005 Airman magazine almanac issue. The almanac issue honors our great Airmen around the world fighting a determined, resilient enemy that threatens our way of life and the dream of peace for others.

This year finds America's Airmen — active duty, Guard, Reserve, civilians and contractors — flying lead to defeat terrorism and those who want to crush our ideals just because we give people the right to vote, worship, demonstrate and to be different. I know you are ready!

Thank you for your outstanding professionalism and dedication to the Air Force mission. We are fortunate to serve a grateful nation. America is proud of your service and your sacrifice in the defense of freedom.

— **Gen. John P. Jumper**



Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force

Today we serve our nation at a historic and challenging time as we defend America and the freedoms we hold so dear.

The Global War on Terror challenges every Airman to be ready for the call. Whether the call is to report to active duty, deploy to a foreign land, or work extended hours to meet mission demands, you've answered with unbridled determination and performed remarkably.

Undoubtedly, the challenges will continue in 2005, and I know, as do the American people, you will stand ready. Today I see more determination and commitment from you — our outstanding Airmen — than I have in my 27 years of service.

It is truly an honor to lead and represent the outstanding enlisted men and women of this great Air Force as we defend the most precious of all values of our nation — freedom.

— **Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force
Gerald R. Murray**